

TO: ESI Employees

FROM: Tom Hancock, Vice President of Human Resources

RE: Human Resources Update for March 2017

DATE: March 20, 2017

Recently, the question of mandatory reporting to the Department of Child Safety has come up in some of our client districts. All ESI employees, including substitutes, are mandatory reporters. Every ESI employee has been provided access to our handbook, which includes the following language:

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

Employees must immediately and independently ensure that the information regarding suspected abuse is reported to a peace officer or child protective services. Section 13-3620 (A), A.R.S., (Reporting Statute) requires all school personnel who reasonably believe that a minor is or has been a victim of child abuse or neglect to “immediately report or cause reports to be made of [the] information to a peace officer or to the Department of Child Safety.” Although informing a principal or other supervisor is advisable, this does not necessarily satisfy the teacher’s duty to ensure that the information regarding the suspected abuse is conveyed to a peace officer or the Department of Child Safety.

School personnel can ensure that the information is conveyed to the proper state investigating authority by either directly reporting the suspected abuse, or confirming that a report made to a supervisor, or principal or other person is immediately conveyed to a peace officer or the Department of Child Safety. Moreover, a school employee who receives a report of child abuse is also statutorily responsible for reporting the information to a peace officer or the Department of Child Safety.

Any person who reasonably believes that a minor is or has been the victim of physical injury, abuse, child abuse, a reportable offense or neglect that appears to have been inflicted on the minor by other than accidental means or that is not explained by the available medical history as being accidental in nature or who reasonably believes there has been a denial or deprivation of necessary medical treatment or surgical care or nourishment with the intent to do harm must report to a peace officer or to the Department of Child Safety.

If you suspect that a child has received a non-accidental injury or has been neglected, or if a child tells you of such experiences, you can act to protect that child by calling the toll free **Arizona Child Abuse Hotline at 1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445)**.

Information on the reporting process and how to access Arizona’s online reporting service can be found here: <https://dcs.az.gov/report-child-abuse-or-neglect>.

Sincerely,



Tom Hancock
Vice President of Human Resources